

Body Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 4:32-5:11.

B. One of the exciting things is the healing of the body of Christ.

II. The early Christian community.

A. Ideal Christianity is a sharing of all things.

B. The company was of one heart and one mind—there was commonness.

1. All Christians are already united by the Spirit, but this does not mean they are in union.

2. Many churches do not have a unity in the soul today.

C. The results of body life.

1. There was great power in witnessing.

2. Great grace was upon them.

a. This is the enrichment of life resulting from the power of God.

b. The grace is power to love someone by knowing him or her.

c. The mark of the Christian life is love.

3. To reach society around us we must stop clinging to things. (Philippians 2)

D. The early community was characterized by its gifts. (Romans 12, I Corinthians 12)

1. Barnabus and the gift of encouragement.

2. Peter and the gift of knowledge.

E. The crying sickness of the church today is pretence—hypocrisy.

F. The sharing of lives is the solution to this sickness.

Application questions:

1. How did grace show up in the body life of the early church?

2. Why is the mutual sharing of gifts important to community in the church?

3. How can you encourage “body life” in your church by your own deeds?
